



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: Malpais Mine - NM0054

CERCLIS ID#: N/A

Alias Site Name: Mesa Top, Malpais Raise

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 20'42.21" Longitude 107 degrees 48'51.62"

City/County or Parish/State/Zip: McKinley County, New Mexico

Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 09/10/09

Author: NMED

RECOMMENDATION:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund												
	<table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> PA</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> HRS</td><td>Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Low</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> ESI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High											
<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low											
<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA												
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:													
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BLM													
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No													

NOTIFY AUTHORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee: <u>BLM</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Facility	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
SEND SSSR COPIES TO: <input type="checkbox"/> 6SF-AC <input type="checkbox"/> 6WQ-SP <input type="checkbox"/> ATSDR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Agency <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Agency				

DISCUSSION:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a site assessment on June 2, 2009 at the Malpais site. The mine operated as a wet mine. NMED observed an open and unfenced shaft and many waste piles bordering or within drainages. Gamma radiation readings were measured at a large waste pile at 140 to 400 uR/h. There are several residences noted within two miles. One livestock well is located less than one mile from the mine site with a total uranium concentration of 2 ug/l. The land surface rights and mineral estate are held by the Bureau of Land Management.

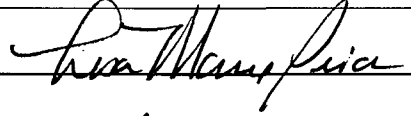
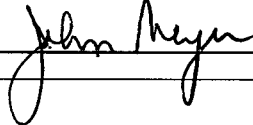
NMED recommended that action be taken at the site to remove waste piles with elevated radioactivity and to plug the open shaft. NMED also recommended that the mine site be further assessed under CERCLA to characterize the extent of site-derived waste dispersion along the drainages and impacts to groundwater.

In October 2011, EPA conducted an aerial radiological survey in the Poison Canyon area of the Ambrosia Lake sub-district by using the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). The Malpais Mine was included in the ASPECT survey. The gamma radiation readings at the Malpais Mine site were two to three times statistically greater than background readings in the area.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the New Mexico State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, August 2011, the Malpais Mine will be addressed by the Bureau of Land Management.



APPROVALS:

Report Reviewed by:	<u>Lisa Marie Price</u> (Site Assessment Manager)	Signature:	<u></u>	Date:	<u>11/25/11</u>
Disposition Approved by:	<u>John Meyer</u> (Section Chief 6SF-TR)	Signature:	<u></u>	Date:	<u>11/29/11</u>